

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078568

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 3815 ACTION SECSTATE, DAR ES SALAAM
INFO LUSAKA, USUN NEW YORK, LONDON, CAPE TOWN, GABORONE,
LILONGWE, MAPUTO AND PRETORIA MAR 25.

UUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3815

EXDIS

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJECT: FRONTLINE TALKS IN LAGOS DURING CARTER VISIT

REF: STATE 075851

SUMMARY: MINISTERIAL-LEVEL RHODESIAN TALKS IN LAGOS DURING
PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT ARE STILL PROBLEMATIC. RESULTS
OF THIS WEEKEND'S FRONTLINE TALKS IN DAR ES SALAAM MAY
SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT EXTENT TO WHICH GARBA'S PROPOSAL
REMAINS ATTRACTIVE TO VARIOUS INVITEES. FMG DOES NOT
INTEND INVITE BRITISH. WE HAVE PRESENTED TO FMG OUR
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CONCERNS ABOUT SECRETARY VANCE'S PARTICIPATION IN DETAILED
DISCUSSIONS IN LAGOS WITHOUT BRITISH INCLUSION. FMG
LOOKS FORWARD DISCUSSING THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WITH
ANDY YOUNG MID-WEEK. END SYMMARY.

1. GARBA HAS BEEN OUT OF TOWN SINCE THURSDAY NIGHT,
SPENDING EASTER VACTION WITH HIS FAMILY IN PLATEAU STATE.

HE IS NOT EXPECTED BACK IN LAGOS UNTIL SOMETIME TUESDAY MARCH 28. MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS VIRTUALLY SHUT DOWN FOR FOUR-DAY EASTER HOLIDAY. THUS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO OBTAIN THE KIND OF INFORMATION WE ALL NEED ON STATUS OF FRONTLINE DISCUSSIONS ON RHODESIA PROPOSED TO BE HELD IN LAGOS DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT MARCH 31-APRIL 3.

2. AS GENTLY BUT EXPLICITLY AS POSSIBLE, WE ALL NEED ON STATUS OF FRONTLINE DISCUSSIONS ON RHODESIA PROPOSED TO BE HELD IN LAGOS DURING PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT MARCH 31-APRIL 3.

3. AS GENTLY BUT EXPLICITLY AS POSSIBLE, WE HAVE EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADORS AKADIRI AND MUSA OUR POSTURE REGARDING SECRETARY VANCE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS. THEY WILL INFORM GARBA AS SOON AS HE MAKES CONTACT AGAIN WITH LAGOS. THE FMG HAS MADE NO RPT NO APPROACH TO THE BRITISH CONCERNING BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN THE TALKS, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT NO RPT NO INTENTION OF DOING SO.

4. AKADIRI TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT THERE IS STILL NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON WHO WILL ACCEPT THE FMG INVITATION. HE SAYS HIS MINISTRY DOESN'T EXPECT TO HAVE SUCH INFORMATION UNTIL MID NEXT WEEK. HE THOUGHT MKAPA WOULD COME PROVIDED
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IT WERE CLEAR THAT "SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS" WITH MR. VANCE WOULD ENSURE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF US CONCERN ABOUT DETAILED TALKS WERE BROUGHT TO NYERERE'S ATTENTION, AKADIRI THOUGHT NYERERE MIGHT REFUSE TO PERMIT NKAPA TO PARTICIPATE. MOGWE AND MWALE WOULD PROBABLY COME REGARDLESS. JORGE WAS A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE, WHEREAS CHISSANO WAS A COMPLETE QUESTION-MARK. WHEN I TOLD AKADIRI I UNDERSTOOD NETO WAS "IN SECLUSION" ON DOCTOR'S ORDERS, AKADIRI AGREED THIS MIGHT REDUCE SOMEWHAT THE POSSIBILITY OF JORGE'S PARTICIPATION.

5. I HAVE A HUNCH THIS MEETING MAY WASH OUT ALTOGETHER. IF WE WANT IT TO WASH OUT, WE COULD NUDGE IN THAT DIRECTION. CONVERSELY OUR SUPPORT OF THE MEETING WOULD HELP ASSURE THAT IT HAPPENS. ANDY YOUNG AND I WILL SURELY BE SEEING GARBA TUESDAY EVENING OR IN THE COURSE OF WEDNESDAY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE OCCASION FOR SUGGESTION WE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE IN EITHER DIRECTION. THE RESULTS OF THE FRONTLINE MEETINGS THIS WEEKEND IN DAR ES SALAAM, AND ANDY'S PARTICIPATION IN THEM, SHOULD PRESUMABLY BE SIGNIFICANT FACTORS IN THE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LAGOS MEETING ON THE PART OF THE VARIOUS PUTATIVE PARTICIPANTS.

6.HON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ON RHODESIA DOES INDEED TAKE PLACE, WE FORESEE POSSIBLE SCHEDULE CONFLICT PROBLEMS AFFECTING OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSION WITH GENERAL OBASANJO BEGINNING AT 1030 SUNDAY MORNING. THE FMG IS CURRENTLY PLANNING ON STARTING THE RHODESIAN TALKS AT 8 AM. EVEN THOUGH THE FMG HAS TOLD US THE TALKS SHOULD LAST "ONLY TWO OR THREE HOURS" (LAGOS 3767), IT APPEARS QUITE LIKELY THAT THE MEETING WILL NOT HAVE CONCLUDED BY THE TIME THE ECONOMIC BILATERAL BEGINS AT 1030. IN THAT EVENT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE US TEAM WHO MIGHT BE IN THE RHODESIAN TALKS WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO LEAVE THEM EARLY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONOMIC BILATERAL. WE HAVE REVIEWED
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THE POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR REARRANGING SCHEDULES TO AVOID THIS OVERLAP. THE SIMPLEST ALTERNATIVE WOULD APPEAR TO BE TO SUGGEST TO THE FMG THAT THEY MOVE THE RHODESIAN TALKS FROM SUNDAY MORNING TO SUNDAY AFTERNOON. THEY WOULD THEN CONFLICT ONLY WITH THE VISIT TO THE PORT FACILITIES AT TIN CAN ISLAND. EASUM
UNQUOTE VANCE

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